

# **State Accreditation Committee Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**January 16, 2015**

The Nebraska State Accreditation committee met at the NSEA Building, 605 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln. Chair Dr. Mike Sieh called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and declared a quorum present and established the legality of the meeting.

Members present were the following: Elizabeth Boyle, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Brian Gegg, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Jed Johnston, ReNae Kehrberg, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Kyle McGowan, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinton, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Members not in attendance were Freida Lange, Mark Skillstad, and Jane Stavem.

NDE Staff member present during all or some of the meeting were the following: Brian Halstead, Donlynn Rice, Valorie Foy, Sharon Katt, Matt Huesman, Russ Masco, Sue Anderson, Aprille Phillips, Don Loseke, Rick Moses, and Dennis McGuire.

Following greetings and introductions, Dr. Sieh reviewed the agenda. Dale Fornander moved to approve the agenda, and Kyle McGowan seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Jed Johnston, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Voting no: None

Abstaining: Elizabeth Boyle, Josie Floyd, Brian Gegg, Mitch Kubicek, Kyle McGowan, and Msgr. John Perkinton.

Approval carried 12-0 with 3 absent and 6 abstentions.

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 22, 2014, meeting. Dale Hafer moved to accept the minutes as presented, and Gerry Osborn seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Elizabeth Boyle, Josie Floyd, Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Brian Gegg, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Jed Johnston, ReNae Kehrberg, Mitch Kubicek, Troy Lurz, Kyle McGowan, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinton, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Voting no: None

Approval carried 19-0 with 3 absent.

## **Legislative Update**

Brian Halstead outlined for members the bills that have been introduced for the legislature's consideration. He noted that legislators have the first ten days of the session for introducing bills. As of day eight, a total of 375 bills had been introduced. He reported that not many of the bills directly impacted accreditation. He did discuss three bills that could affect accreditation. The first is LB 101 introduced by Senator Sullivan. This bill would add a subsection that would amend Quality Education and would measure college and career readiness. He noted that this is on the same trajectory as NDE because the new standards that are being written have higher education signing off that mastery of these standards would assure college and career readiness. The second bill is LB 343 introduced by Senator Kolowski. This bill would add funding sources specifically for schools to offer rigorous courses at the high school level such as dual credit, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate classes. The third bill introduced by Senator Sullivan is LB 371 that he noted looks like support for the PK-16 initiative to put into law a means to move education in this direction. Mr. Halstead then provided an extended time for members to ask questions.

## **Rule 10 Review**

Rick Moses provided members a handout of suggested revision or additions for Rule 10. Because members had previously been briefed on most of the modifications, he reviewed just two of the changes with them: 003.04 (An added reference to Rule 15) and 004.04B7 (The inclusion of language that addresses cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction within the personal health and physical fitness curriculum).

## **ESEA Flexibility Waiver Overview**

Aprille Phillips and Matt Heusman described the three primary principles for the proposed waiver to ESEA that they are writing for the State Board's consideration. These three principles are college and career, accountability model, and effective instruction and leadership. They explained that the intent of the waiver is to capture all that is taking place in Nebraska's educational efforts to promote teacher effectiveness and student success. Each of these three areas were then addressed by the NDE personnel in charge of each area.

### **Principle 1: College and Career Ready Standards**

Donlynn Rice explained to members that as the core standards in language arts, math, social studies, and science are revisited on the five year cycle per the requirements of law, higher education representatives are involved in the revision process. As a result, the new standards will not be considered by the State Board until the higher education personnel agree that mastery of these new standards will assure that a student is college and career ready. She explained that since Nebraska has not adopted the Common Core, this is the state's attempt to comply with this part of the waiver's requirements.

### **Principle 2: Accountability Model**

Sue Anderson, the State Accountability Coordinator, shared with members information about the Accountability for Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow (AQuESTT). Specifically, she noted that Next Generation Accountability means beyond assessment and student performance as sole

measures, a focus on investments that matter to student success, building systems of support to help students, measuring status plus growth and improvement, and working collaboratively to support and improve whole systems. She shared the six tenets around which the framework is designed.

Dr. Anderson conducted the working lunch and gave members the opportunity to react to and offer opinions regarding AQuESTT. She shared a handout with members that summarized the major themes of the public forums that had been conducted across the state.

She then provided members an overview of Rule 10 and the sections that would include quality indicators relating to the six tenets of AQuESTT and the accountability revisions, additions, and components that will be in the next hearing draft of Rule 10. As she shared the rationale for integrating the accountability guidelines into Rule 10 rather than having a separate rule, she emphasized that most of the additions are very close to the statute language.

### **Principle 3: Teacher/Principal Evaluation**

Donlynn Rice reported on the progress of the seventeen pilot districts that are in year two of the teacher/principal evaluation model. She noted that the schools were choosing between the Marzano and Danielson models, but that they had added the student learning objective component. This is generally an effort to address tying student success to instructional effectiveness. This in turn will be a part of satisfying a component of the Waiver that Aprille Phillips and Matt Huesman discussed.

### **Education Data Systems, Legislative Study**

Russ Masco, from the data team, reported via a PowerPoint presentation the status of the Nebraska Department of Education SLDS grant and the development of the dashboard. He outlined the goals and rationale for the direction that this initiative is moving to satisfy the grant components. Specifically, he noted key components of the dashboard with special attention to the ability to filter and drill-down for effective analysis and use of student data. He demonstrated multiple capabilities and benefits that the dashboard will provide districts.

### **Update on School Security Timeline, Suicide Prevention**

Jolene Palmer, the School Safety Director, was not in attendance. In her absence, Rick Moses gave members an overview of the Rule 10 safety components, and then he reviewed what LB 923 requires of this position. He specifically noted that the one hour of suicide prevention training will be required of all school personnel who have contact with students, and this is required for the 2015-2016 school year. This training will in great part be directed through the assistance of the ESUs.

### **Certificates and Endorsement Issues**

Sharon Katt discussed the content of a handout that included linking teacher effectiveness to their preparation programs, surveying of first year teacher employers, and assessing clinical experience with the teacher framework. She also shared a summary of Rule 21 changes such as content testing requirements for September 2015, permits and certificates, alternative program permits, and dual credit and career education certificate adjustments. Finally she reviewed Rule 24 changes that are anticipated to take effect August 1, 2015.

### **AQuESTT Empowered by Data Conference and Continuous Improvement Workshops**

Numbers of participants for the school improvement workshops were shared along with discussion of the alignment of the AQuESTT tenets with the five standards for effective schools. Members were encouraged to have school teams participate in the Data Conference for April 26 and 27 where the focus will be on AQuESTT and the use of data to empower the tenets.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15.